

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A directional coupler comprising:
a grounding electrode formed on a first surface of a substrate;
a line formed on a second surface of the substrate and, together with the grounding electrode, forming a microstrip line having a coupling line portion; and
a main line coupled to the coupling line portion,
wherein the grounding electrode includes a notch portion opposite to the coupling line portion.
2. (Previously presented) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein the notch portion includes two notches located at opposite ends along a length direction of the coupling line portion.
3. (Previously presented) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein an electric field strength generated between the coupling line portion and the grounding electrode is lower in the notch portion of the grounding electrode than in a portion of the grounding electrode having no notch portion.
4. (Previously presented) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main line is the center conductor of a coaxial line.
5. (Previously presented) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main line is substantially parallel to the coupling line portion.

6. (Previously presented) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 1, wherein the notch portion is formed in a width direction of the coupling line portion from an edge of the substrate.

7. (Previously presented) A directional coupler comprising:
a substrate;
a grounding electrode formed on a first surface of the substrate; and
a coupling line formed on a second surface of the substrate,
wherein the grounding electrode includes a notch opposite to the coupling line.

8. (Previously presented) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 7, wherein the notch is formed in a width direction of the coupling line from an edge of the substrate.

9. (Previously presented) The directional coupler as claimed in claim 7, wherein the grounding electrode includes two notch at opposite ends along a length direction of the coupling line.

10. (Currently amended) The directional coupler as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 7, wherein an electric field strength generated between the coupling line and the grounding electrode is lower in the notch of the grounding electrode than in a portion of the grounding electrode having no notch.